(b) 6-1-84. The issues involved are under consideration in consultation with the concerned Ministries.

(c) It is likely to take some more time before the final view can be taken.

(d) *Yes, Sir.*

Artificial rains

2511. SHRI RAM CHANDRA VIKAL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether any scheme prepared by the Indian meteorologists on artificial rains is under Governmnent's consideration and if so, what decision has been taken thereon ; and

(b) what incentives are being given to the meteorologists for encouraging them in the direction ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL):(a) and (b) Efforts at artificial rain making by Indian Meteorologists have been a continuous process and are continuing especially at the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology, Pune. All necessary encouragement and facilities are provided within available resources for the purpose.

2512. [*Transferred to the 18th December, 1985.*]

Employment opportunities

2513. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Prime Minister had stated while addressing the National Development Council meeting recently that the employment opportunities would be increased considerabley during the Seventh Five Year Plan ;

(b) if so, what concrete steps are being planned in this direction; and

(c) whether Government propose to remove ban on recruitment for jobs in Government departments; and public undertakings ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI AJIT PANJA) : (a) *Yes, Sir.*

(b) The central element in the development strategy of the Seventh Plan is the generation of productive employment. This will be achieved through increase in cropping intensity made possible by increased availability of irrigation facilities, extension of new agricultural technologies to low productivity regions and to small farmers through measures to make the rural development programme more effective in the creation of productive assets, through the expansion of labour intensive construction activities for providing housing, urban amenities, roads and rural infrastructure, through the expansion of primary education and basic health facilities and through changes in the pattern of industrial growth. Besides the sectoral programmes, the package of poverty alleviation programmes aimed at giving self employment and wage employment to the poorer section of the community will continue on a significant scale during the Seventh Plan.

(c) Instructions issued in January, 1984 advising Ministries/Department of the Government of India not to fill up existing vacancies except where recruitment action had been taken, were part of a package of measures aimed at controlling non-plan expenditure and curbing inflation. Present circumstances do not warrant any relaxation of these measures.

The restriction earlier imposed on the creation of posts filling up of vancancies in the Central Public Enterprises, has since been relaxed, and the public enterprses have been